(घ) इस मूल्य वृद्धि के परिणामस्वरूप 1996-97 के दौरान तेल पूल खाते में लगभग 6,977 करोड़ रुपए की अतिरिक्त आय होने का अनुमान है।

Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies Allotted to the Reserved Categories

600. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of petrol. diesel retail outlets and LPG dealerships allotted to persons belonging to SCs, STs, Minority Sections, Backward Classes, handicapped and terrorist-affected widows in Punjab, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh, during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Existing policy provides reservation of dealerships/distributorships to the following categories as under:

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	—25%
Defence (DC)	—7½%
Physically Handicapped (PH)	—7½
Freedom Fighters (FF)	—3%
Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP)	—2%
Open (O)	—55%

There is no separate reservation for Minority Sections, Backward Classes and terrorist affected widows.

The number of retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships allotted to SC/ ST and P.H. Category during the last three years i.e. 1993-94 to 1996-97 upto Jan. 97 in Punjab, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and J&K in indicated below:

	Retail Outlet			LPG		
	SC	ST	PH	SC	ST	PH
Punjab	22	0	4	13	0	3
Assam	4	15	2	2	12	2
Andhra Pradesh	10	9	5	9	6	6
J&K	1	0	1	2	0	1

Rise in the Price of Crude Oil

601. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently raised the price of crude oil to be paid to ONGC and OIL;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in the crude oil price as compared to the price raised by Government during the last year;

(c) what are the reasons for raising the crude oil price;

(d) the extent to which this rise is likely to burden the Oil Pool Account deficit; and

(e) what would be its overall impact on the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Government has raised the price of indigenous crude oil payable to ONGC and OIL from Rs. 1741/MT to Rs. 1991/MT provisionally w.e.f. 1.4.96. The revised crude oil price is based on

the weighted average cost of production of ONGC & OIL and return on capital employed. Its impact on pool account during 1996-97 is estimated to be Rs. 744 crores. The prices of petroleum products, are administered by the Government through the oil pool account mechanism. The position of the oil pool account is monitored on a continuous basis and measures taken to contain the deficit.

Shortage of LPG in Divisional Headquarters

602. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an acute shortage of LPG was reported on the 10th July, 1996, in the Divisional Headquarters, Jalpaiguri;

(b) whether similar shortage was also reported in other divisional headquarters of country during the period from July 1996 to January 1997;

(c) whether LPG connections booked in 1991 and onwards have not been released on maturity of turn, due to the above reasons;

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to remove the artificial shortage created by the vested interests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shortage of LPG was reported in other Divisional Headquarters of the country also during the period July '96 to November '96.

(c) No, Sir. Connections are being released on maturity.

(d) and (e) The Oil Companies conduct raids under the LPG Control Order to keep check on artificial shortage of LPG also to ensure that LPG is used only for authorised purposes. Inspections are also being carried out at regular intervals by officers of the Oil Companies. More connections are being released all over the country every year.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में तेल चयन बोर्ड

603. श्री महेश्वर सिंह: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में 7 मार्च, 1995 को तेल चयन बोर्ड का गठन किया गया था;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि केवल एक महीने बाद ही 3 अप्रैल, 1995 को मंत्रालय के दिनांक 18 अप्रैल, 1995 के कार्यालय आदेश द्वारा इस बोर्ड को भंग कर दिया गया था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या बोर्ड पर भाई-भतीजावाद और भ्रष्टाचार का आरोप लगाया गया है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) सरकार ने इन शिकायतों को दूर करने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी॰ आर॰ बालू): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) से (ङ) हिमाचल प्रदेश के लिए गठित तेल चयन बोर्ड 3 अप्रैल, 1995 से सार्वजनिक हित में भंग कर दिया गया था।

(च) तेल चयन बोर्डों, जिनमें हिमाचल प्रदेश का तेल चयन बोर्ड भी सम्मिलित है, का क्रियाकलाप वर्तमान में आस्थगित है। चयन प्रक्रिया के पुनरसक्रियण पर सरकार गम्भीरता के साथ विचार कर रही है।

MOU Between ONGC and UNOCAL Corporation for Gas Reserves in Tripura

604. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has signed a Memoradum of Understanding with the US based UNOCAL Corporation for